

DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 242 188

EC 165 166

AUTHOR Warren, Barbara Jane
TITLE A Watchful Eye. "Sitting" with Special Children.
INSTITUTION Physically Impaired Association of Michigan, Lansing.
PAM Assistance Centre.
PUB DATE Oct 83
NOTE 5p.
PUB TYPE Collected Works - Serials (022) -- Guides -
Non-Classroom Use (055)
JOURNAL CIT PAM Repeater; n19 Oct 1983
EDRS PRICE MF01/PC01 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS *Child Caregivers; Child Welfare; *Mental Disorders;
*Physical Disabilities
IDENTIFIERS *Babysitters; PF Project

ABSTRACT

Tips for childcare and babysitting with special needs children are divided into the categories of physical handicaps, epilepsy, mental impairment, general safety, and general babysitting suggestions. Also provided is an information sheet that parents of special needs children should complete to alert the babysitter to special needs and emergency numbers. (LP)

* Reproductions supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made *
* from the original document. *



published by:
the PAM ASSISTANCE CENTRE of the
PHYSICALLY IMPAIRED ASSOCIATION
OF MICHIGAN Phone: 517-371-5897

Arselia S. Ensign, Editor
PAM Assistance Centre
601 W. Maple Street
Lansing, MI 48906

ED242188



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION
EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION
CENTER (ERIC)

This document has been reproduced as
received from the person or organization
originating it.

Minor changes have been made to improve
reproduction quality.

Points of view or opinions stated in this docu-
ment do not necessarily represent official NIE
position or policy.

"PERMISSION TO REPRODUCE THIS
MATERIAL HAS BEEN GRANTED BY

Arselia J. Ensign

TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES
INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)."

Babysitting for any child is a serious responsibility. As the babysitter, you are in charge of his/her physical and emotional needs and safety while the parents are away. If the child has a developmental disability he will likely have other needs that must be addressed.

All children have the same basic needs and wants. Knowing a few specifics about each child and his handicapping condition will make you feel more at ease. It is most important to treat the child like anyone else in your care. The "special" child needs and wants to be treated as normally as possible.

Parents are your best resource about the needs of their child. Just remember one thing, Kids are people, too!

Your friend from PAM,
Barbara Warren

"NEW HAVEN FOR MICHIGANDERS"

A new, one-of-a-kind opportunity is being offered to the families of terminally ill children who need a vacation together but cannot afford the luxury.

Little Mary's Hospitality House is located in Northern Michigan between Cadillac and Manistee. It has 5 comfortable apartments designed to accommodate complete families so that they may enjoy the relaxation and recreation offered there.

This is a non-profit organization operated by donations. There is no fee for any family to holiday at this resort. For more information you may contact Little Mary's Hospitality House, Maureen Fischer, 1580 Seaman Road, Wellston, MI. 49689. Phone (616) 848-4699.

EC 165166

ALL ABOUT ME



Child's Name _____ Nickname _____

Brother's & Sister's Names _____

Address _____ Telephone _____

FIRE _____ POLICE _____

Special Instructions in case of emergency: _____

Name	Business Address
Father _____	_____
Mother _____	_____

Work Hours	Work Phone
F _____	F _____
M _____	M _____

Our nearest neighbor is _____

Name	Address	Telephone
1. _____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____

Family Physician: _____ Telephone _____

My favorite toys are _____ I like to eat _____

My bedtime is _____ My favorite bedtime toy _____

To help me to communicate you can _____

How my handicaps restrict me _____

I am taking medication for _____

Dosage _____ Administration of Medication _____

Things that frighten me _____

Special bathroom needs _____

SPECIAL TIPS FOR SPECIAL CHILDREN

There are certain physical and mental handicapping conditions that require special attention. As the care giver you should be aware of the specific needs of each child. If the child has a physical handicap such as cerebral palsy, muscular dystrophy, osteogenesis imperfecta, epilepsy or autism there are some specifics that you should ask. They include the following:

- * Does the child have any unusual communication patterns? Any special gestures or signals?
- * How does the child interact with others?
- * Are there any special routines for bedtime?
- * Are behavior problems likely to occur? If so, how should they be handled?
- * Is there a specific bathroom routine?
- * If needed, how do I pick up and/or transfer this child?
- * What position is most comfortable for the child?
- * Does the child have any favored toys?
- * Is there special equipment used for this child? If so, how does it operate?
- * Is the child on medication? If so, what are the instructions for administering it?
- * Is the child likely to choke while eating?

If the child has epilepsy you will want to ask:

- * What kind of seizures does the child have?
- * What type of behavior can be expected during the seizure?
- * How often do seizures occur?
- * Are there circumstances which are likely to trigger seizures?
- * If the child has a seizure should anyone be contacted?
- * How will brothers and sisters react to a seizure?
- * Shall I encourage the child to rest after he has had a seizure?

If the child is mentally impaired there are other specifics to think about.

- * Are there certain necessary words you need to understand but may not recognize ("ba" for bathroom, "wa" for water)?
- * Do you need to remind the child to go to the bathroom? Can he go alone, or does he need assistance?
- * Should you praise and/or reward the child when he completes a requested/required task?

It is very important to remember that children who are mentally impaired have the same hopes, wants and emotions as the "average" child.

HAVE FUN BUT BE SAFE!

The safety of the children is your main concern. Keep a watchful but friendly eye on them at all times. Be alert and take steps to prevent accidents. All homes have danger zones. Be sure the children are kept away from the stove, electrical appliances, plugs, cords, knives and cleaning materials.

A good "rule of thumb" is that whenever the situation looks like it might be serious, get in touch with the parents or a doctor at once.

Parents appreciate concern. When they return, discuss any problems you had. Explain to them how you handled any situation that you weren't sure of, ask them how they would have handled it. The key word between you and the parent is COMMUNICATE.

PAM Assistance Centre
601 W. Maple Street
Lansing, MI 48906

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
Paid
Lansing, MI
Permit No. 788



1580 Seaman Road
Wells'on, Michigan 49689

GENERAL BABYSITTING TIPS

It is always a wise idea to spend some time with the child and get acquainted before you are left alone with him. Plan to arrive early so that you can observe the family routine. It will be much less traumatic for all when the parents leave if the child has had a chance to get to know you.

Ask the parents to jot down any guidelines and special instructions. The first time you babysit for a family make sure to ask the following:

- * names and nicknames
- * bed time and sleeping arrangements
- * bathroom procedures
- * off limit zones
- * TV rules
- * favorite activities and/or toys
- * habits or problems (e.g. fear of the dark)

Of course you should always have the following emergency numbers:

- * where parents can be reached
- * family doctor
- * neighbor(s)
- * police
- * fire

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

PAM wishes to acknowledge the following sources as having been helpful in the editing of this Repeater. Neither booklet is currently in print.

Babysitting My Handicapped Child; Patrick Maher, Mountain Plains Regional Center for Services to Handicapped Children, 165 Cook Street, Suite 304, Denver, Colorado 80206.

Babysitting for Special Children; Division of Community Services, Room #561, 1 West Wilson Street, Madison, Wisconsin 53702.